

## **Swinomish Earth Enhancement Celebrations 2003-2005: The Planning Process**

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Keywords: Community Partnerships, citizen involvement, cultural awareness, Restoration, education, traditional knowledge

The Swinomish Earth Enhancement Celebration, which takes place on the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Reservation, began as an opportunity for citizens to learn about tribal culture while also volunteering with service projects to enhance the community. Attendance consists of residents from primarily Skagit County and members of the Swinomish Tribe. In the past two years that this event has taken place, approximately 280 volunteers have participated in morning service projects, and then spend the afternoon enjoying a traditionally prepared lunch, learning from various conservation displays, participating in craft projects and listening to traditional music and dance. To organize an event of this magnitude requires a dedicated planning team, funding and support from a variety of local establishments, organizations and participants who desire to learn more about tribal culture and also share an enthusiasm for service projects to enhance the reservation. This presentation will be a panel composed of the organizers of this event, with a goal of describing the planning process with a hope of inspiring other communities to organize similar events.